Limitation of Liability

# Articles of Incorporation Template

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### IN OTHER WORDS:

**Please check your local and state laws to ensure that any legal documents you file or adopt, are legal and appropriate for your church in your state. This document is just a starting point.**

Instructions

Type the requested information for each placeholder box.

The “Distribution on Dissolution” article below requires you to decide one way or the other. The options are listed in orange. Choose the one that better suits your situation and/or write your own version. **BE SURE TO DELETE THE OPTION YOU DON’T CHOOSE** and change the font color to black.

# ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

# OF

# [Name of Church]

*A* *[Name of State] Nonprofit Religious Corporation*

The undersigned, pursuant to the Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law of the State of [Name of State] NOTE: your state may require the specific Chapter & Title numbers to be included, does hereby submit these Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of forming a nonprofit religious corporation.

1. **NAME**

The name of this corporation is: [Name of Church]

1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose for which this organization is formed is to glorify God by forming a local congregation of the church of Christ which will carry out the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament of the Word of God (Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16). This congregation will provide opportunity for Christian people to continue steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42), and prepare them for works of service (Ephesians 4:12).

This corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

The church is being incorporated in the State of [Name of State] for legal purposes, but said incorporation shall, in no way, interfere with the spiritual organization of the local church as given in the New Testament.

1. **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and externally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe Jesus Christ is true God and true man. Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, arose bodily from the grave and ascended to heaven where He is our Advocate.

We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict people of sin, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, instruct, and empower the believer for Godly living and service.

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, without error in the original writings, and is the final authority for all Christians.

We believe in God’s saving grace that calls all people to faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and a new life and ministry through the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all humankind: the believer in Christ into everlasting joy, and the unbeliever into everlasting punishment.

1. **members**

The corporation shall have no members. The management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors, as defined in the [Name of Church] Bylaws.

1. **AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS**

The name and address of the corporation’s initial agent for service of process are as follows:

[Name of Agent]

[Physical Address - No PO Boxes]

[City, ST Zip]

1. **ADDRESS OF THE CORPORATION**

The physical address of the corporation is as follows:

[Physical Address - No PO Boxes]

[City, ST Zip]

1. **initial directors**

The names and addresses of the corporation’s initial Directors are as follows:

[Name of Director]

[work or home address]

[City, ST Zip]

[Name of Director]

[work or home address]

[City, ST Zip]

[Name of Director]

[work or home address]

[City, ST Zip]

1. **IRC 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPTION PROVISIONS**
   1. **Limitations on Activities**

No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation [except as otherwise provided by Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code], and this corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, this corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

* 1. **Prohibition Against Private Inurement**

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors or trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

1. **DISTRIBUTION UPON DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, all assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of the state of [Name of State].

**OR** (pick one and delete the other)

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, all assets shall be distributed to [Name of Benefactor] which operates within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Should [Name of Benefactor] no longer exist, all remaining assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of the state of [Name of State].

Executed on [date].

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Name of Planter], Incorporator

[work or home address]

[City, ST Zip]